[illegible] 1790, May 12

London May 12th 1790. 10 P.M.

Sir

I laid the Letter of writing to you the ninth of this month by the Packet, & that of informing you of [illegible] sent that day by the King to his Parliament, via another Letter of the 10th of writing to you the ninth, by the way of Boston mentioned the steps which had been taken in consequence of this message. This last [illegible] will most [illegible] reached you as soon as [illegible] I have heard that the Sailors of the Spithead [illegible] of which I shall inform you they were all [illegible] to you by every [illegible] with an activity of which it is scarcely [illegible] The Lords [illegible] strongly [illegible] the effects of [illegible]

keeping what they have got - we have not yet heard from France,
what they there say to this nations army: I hope, however, they will
be the same - in the affair with Holland France was humbled in the

CITRO, MASS [illegible]

of all Europe, they will now have an
means of securing their reputation & trust, they
will take the advantage of it. Addition to the
Ships which I mentioned in my last, were equipping
for sea, there are now getting ready, with great
dispatch, at Portsmouth, the victory of 100 guns,
formidable, Royal William, Hannah Royal of
90 each - three ships of 74 & frigates - Bellona,
the London of 90 guns, three ships of 74, & six
frigates - it is believed the command of the
channel fleet will be given to Lord Howe
or Admiral Digby, with admirals Barrington
& Lord Hood to command divisions of it,
the fleet in the Mediterranean, it is imagined
will be commanded by Lord Hood - It is
reported, seems to be generally believed, that
Admiral Boyton with three frigates, has been
taken by a Spanish squadron carried into
Cadiz - I write you this as the report of the
day however, I think it probable Boyton

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have been restored, but in Rutledge & Co's prize
have objected to the proofs offered of their being
americans: Mr Lake, still suggests to the merchants
in America the propriety of obliging their Captains
to have certificates of their Sailors being american
Citizens. Mr Paine is in London, &
very busy in erecting his bridge, which arrived
from the Ironmongers yesterday. He guesses he
will be up before I embark for America, which
I shall do in three Weeks: which when I have
the pleasure of seeing you in York, to have
that also of telling you it has succeeded.
I was in hopes to have been able to have told
you, also, that I had myself gone safely up
stream in Mr Ramsays boat, but it is not
probable I shall have that pleasure — he
talks much of the difficulties he has not
yet met with, nor does not despair when
his experiment will be made.
I have the honor to be, Sir, with much

Oct. 25.

Dear Sir
Your most obedient humble Servant
J. Fitch